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A system for controlling operation of a remotely located video recording device includes at least one Video Recording Device connected to the Internet; at least one Internet access device connected to the Internet; and at least one Internet Remote Control Server connected to the Internet, whereby the Internet access device can control the Video Recording Device. The system also maintains and keeps the state of a user account representing the settings of a discrete user of a discrete VRD and exchanges changes in the states of the user account and of the VRD between the two. The system also accumulates each user's requests for recording of specific programs and communicates with other Servers to provide to other Servers statistical information regarding selected television programs.